

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (KISSINGER)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT ROBIN WRIGHT BYLINER WASHINGTON
POST WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 8 HEADED "RHODESIA'S SMITH RETURNS
TO GENEVA TO SEEK SOLUTION IN STALLED TALKS."

2. RHODESIAN PRIME MINISTER IAN SMITH LEFT FOR GENEVA
TODAY IN A LAST-DITCH ATTEMPT TO SAVE THE PEACE NEGOTIA-
TIONS WITH FOUR BLACK NATIONALIST LEADERS ON TERMS FOR
TRANSITION TO BLACK-MAJORITY RULE.

3. SMITH SAID HE WAS RETURNING AFTER A MONTH-LONG ABSENCE
FROM THE ALMOST DEADLOCKED TALKS "TO SEE IF I CAN GET
PEOPLE THERE TO TALK ABOUT THE BUSINESS THAT WE ALL WENT
TO GENEVA TO TALK ABOUT."

4. THE NEGOTIATIONS, WHICH OPENED SIX WEEKS AGO, HAVE
BEEN DELAYED BY BICKERING OVER AN INDEPENDENCE DATE--NOW
SET FOR MARCH 1978--AND BY SQUABBLING BETWEEN BLACK AND
WHITE DELEGATIONS OVER THE STRUCTURE OF A TRANSITION

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GOVERNMENT.

5. THE RHODESIAN LEADER APPEARED TO BE CONCERNED MAINLY

ABOUT POSSIBLE DEVIATION FROM THE ORIGINAL SETTLEMENT PLAN OFFERED BY SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER THAT MIGHT ELIMINATE A ROLE FOR WHITES DURING THE INTERIM PERIOD.

6. ON SATURDAY, SMITH CHARGED THAT BRITISH CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN IVOR RICHARD "IS PERPETUATING HIS COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR THE INTERESTS OF WHITE RHODESIANS. HIS MAIN CONCERN IS TO PANDER TO THE EVERY WANT OF THE EXTREME BLACK POLITICIANS, WHO REPRESENT A SMALL FRACTION OF RHODESIAN OPINION."

7. THERE HAS BEEN WIDESPREAD SPECULATION THAT SMITH AGREED RELUCTANTLY TO RETURN TO GENEVA, UNDER PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES, BRITAIN OR SOUTH AFRICA.

8. A GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL EXPLAINED: "THE TIMING WAS NOT RIGHT. HE WANTED TO GO BACK ONLY WHEN THE NATIONALISTS WERE READY TO DISCUSS THE KISSINGER PLAN. GOING NOW MAKES IT APPEAR THE GOVERNMENT IS DESPERATE TO PUSH ITS CASE WHEN WE ACTUALLY DON'T NEED TO."

9. OBSERVERS HERE ANTICIPATE A CONFRONTATION BETWEEN SMITH AND RICHARD OVER A ROLE FOR WHITES--OUTNUMBERED BY AFRICANS 22 TO 1--AND THE CONTINUED DELAY IN DISCUSSING THE SIX-POINT KISSINGER PLAN.

10. SMITH EMPHASIZED TODAY THAT HIS GOVERNMENT WOULD NOT RELINQUISH THE POSTS OF JUSTICE AND DEFENSE, THE ONLY TWO TRANSITIONAL PORTFOLIOS TO BE UNDER WHITE CONTROL UNDER THE KISSINGER PLAN.

11. HE ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE COULD NOT FORESEE HIS DELEGATION PULLING OUT OF GENEVA IF BLACK OPPOSITION INCREASES. "IF THE CONFERENCE BREAKS DOWN I'M SATISFIED IT WILL NOT BE OF ANY WRONG THAT I OR ANY MEMBER OF THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT DELEGATION HAVE DONE. IT WILL BE
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BECAUSE OF WHAT THE OTHERS HAVE DONE."

12. SMITH WOULD NOT DISCUSS ALTERNATIVES SHOULD THE TALKS COLLAPSE. BUT THERE ARE GROWING INDICATIONS THAT OFFICIALS ARE PREPARING FOR THE "INTERNAL OPTION"--IMPLEMENTING THE KISSINGER PROPOSALS UNDER A JOINT BLACK-WHITE INTERIM GOVERNMENT WITHOUT THE FOUR BLACK LEADERS NOW NEGOTIATING IN GENEVA.

13. THE GOVERNMENT WOULD NEGOTIATE A NEW CONSTITUTION

WITH LOCAL, MODERATE AFRICANS--PROBABLY SELECTED FROM
AMONG RHODESIA'S 250 TRIBAL CHIEFS.

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14. INSIDERS ARGUE THAT THE U.S. AND OTHER WESTERN
GOVERNMENTS WOULD THEN BE FORCED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH
THEIR GUARANTEES--ECONOMIC AID AND THE LIFTING OF SANC-
TIONS--SINCE SMITH CARRIED OUT HIS END OF THE AGREEMENT.

15. NEWS SERVICES REPORTED THESE SOUTHERN AFRICA
DEVELOPMENTS:

--CANADIAN EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER DONALD JAMIESON
SAID IN LONDON THAT THE COMMONWEALTH SHOULD PROVIDE
EXPERTS TO SUPERVISE LAW, ORDER AND DEFENSE UNDER A
TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT IN RHODESIA AND CANADA WAS PRE-
PARED TO TAKE PART.

--A SWISS ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST, THE REV. GEORGE
OREGER, IS MISSING FROM HIS MISSION 200 MILES SOUTH OF
SALISBURY, HIS ASSOCIATES ANNOUNCED. TWO DAYS EARLIER
THREE MISSIONARIES WERE SHOT DEAD IN ANOTHER REGION.

--SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE SAID EXPLOSIVES PLACED BY A
BLACK MAN BLASTED A JOHANNESBURG RESTAURANT CROWDED WITH
WHITES. THEY SAID THE MAN LOST AN ARM, A BLACK WAITER
WAS INJURED AND SEVERAL CUSTOMERS WERE CUT BY FLYING
GLASS.

--SEN. DICK CLARK (D-IOWA), WINDING UP FIVE WEEKS
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, EXPRESSED HOPE IN JOHANNESBURG THAT
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SOUTH AFRICA CAN PREVENT "THROUGH MEANINGFUL AND RAPID
CHANGE" A RACE WAR WITH ITS BLACK MAJORITY. (END TEXT.)
ROBINSON

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